



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

6 MAY

SUBJECT: Mobile Military Field Court, III CTZ

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On 6 May 1968, I attended the opening session of the new III CTZ Mobile Military Field Court. The trials were held in the second floor courtroom at the Civil Court, located on Cong Ly Street.

The Mobile Court's request for courtroom space at the Capital Military District was denied by the Minister of Defense. At the present time, DMJ has no other specific locations in mind, though the problem is under consideration. While the Mobile Court may temporarily use the facilities at the civil court, Major Lieu informs me they are only available on Mondays and Fridays.

It appeared that there were about 20 accused awaiting trial; three civilian attorneys from the local bar were present to defend them. Following extensive questioning by the President, the lawyer gave a short argument to the Court. Each case took about 10-15 minutes. In the two cases that I saw, there were no witnesses. I did not remain in court until sentencing, as this took place after all the cases are heard. I will, however, give you a copy of the trial results as soon as they are known to me.

The court personnel was as follows: The five-member court consisted of a full Colonel (President), Captain, 1st Lieutenant, 2nd Lieutenant and Sergeant. There was one prosecutor, and it was Captain Chau Van Si, a judge advocate from the DMJ. Also present was a 2nd Lieutenant clerk reporter and a Sergeant who acted as bailiff.

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